



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Human Services Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312
January 24, 2019, 8:00AM

MINUTES

Attendance

Beth Kerrigan (Chair), Ben Wenograd, Chris Barnes (by phone), Mary Fay (by phone), Shari Cantor (by phone)

Staff

Matt Hart (Town Manager), Helen Rubino-Turco (Leisure & Social Services Director), Martha Church (Library Services Director)

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Kerrigan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

2. Communications

The committee received the minutes from the December 20, 2018 meeting.

3. Staff Reports

- a. **Library Update:** Martha Church provided this update to the committee. The libraries are handling business as usual during the winter months. She provided a personnel update, highlighting future retirements and open positions. During the time of transition, she will assess and reevaluate the positions in order to ensure the library is able to meet the needs of the community in an efficient and effective manner.

She also discussed programs and community engagement initiatives, including marketing and publicity efforts highlighting the library resources. Banners, bookmarks, and posters are all being used to raise awareness. The Come Learn with Me program is moving along and is halfway done. This program is funded through a LSTA grant and provides parent education for early childhood literacy.

The department participated in the Human Rights event in December. Access Health Care CT enrolled 245 people during open enrollment and it is a hope that they will partner with the library again in the future. The Teen Department is partnering with 3 surrounding areas in an upcoming trivia event which will take place in Farmington.

- b. **Leisure Services Update:** Helen Rubino-Turco provided this update to the committee. The Westmoor Park Fund is the beneficiary of donations made in honor of the Curtin-Murphy family. Staff will work with the family on the use of the funds for the park.

The summer 2018 aquatics review is complete. The program is reviewed at the end of each season to ensure the goals and objectives are being met. The Town Manager will review Helen's report and will present it to the committee at a future meeting. Cornerstone is wrapping up its 2nd year and is performing well. Staff is doing a review and expects to renewal of the contract.

The West Hartford Art League won a highly competitive grant to feature a mural by renowned artist (Ed Johnetta). The League would like to paint 3 panels on a town building (Buena Vista Maintenance Building) which is in the historic district. The Historic Design Commission may have to weigh in on this project. More information about the project and the process will be shared at the next meeting.

She also provided a status report on Wolcott Park Renovations, including an upcoming ribbon cutting for the tennis/pickleball/basketball courts and timeline for the rest of the project. The next park to undergo renovations will be Kennedy Park and work will start soon.

She briefly discussed the 10-Minute Walk Initiative, which focuses on having public parks in 10-minute walking distance in neighborhoods. October 10th will be a 10-minute walk day. Brainstorming and planning for promoting this day is underway and a variety of initiatives are being considered. The goal is to have at least 10 elected officials walk to parks.

4. Business Items

a. Proposal to Provide Discount for active military and national services members at select Leisure Services facilities

This business item will be discussed at the March meeting in order to allow a town resident to attend.

b. Ordinance to allow temporary sponsorship signage in West Hartford parks and playfields

Helen Rubino-Turco discussed this business item. She updated the committee on the proposed ordinance which was pulled at the January 22, 2019 Town Council meeting after TPZ voted unanimously against it. The second draft has been reworked to address some of the issues raised by TPZ, including length of time, number of signs and sunset clause. She walked the committee through each of the three changes and answered committee questions and concerns.

The second draft has been shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The next steps include presenting the second draft to the leagues for feedback.

5. Adjournment

With no further business, Deputy Mayor Kerrigan adjourned the meeting at 8:56 AM.